

REMARKS

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please enter the foregoing amendments.

Claims 11-26 are now pending in the above-identified patent application, as presented by the instant Preliminary Amendment. All prior (original) claims have been cancelled. Claim 11 is the single claim presented in independent form.

The present application represents the U.S. National Phase of P.C.T. Application No. PCT/CH2003/000764, filed November 19, 2003, and claiming foreign priority on the basis of a corresponding Swiss patent application, filed November 25, 2002. A Petition to Revive the P.C.T. application as to the United States designation is being concurrently-filed.

By the present amendments, prior Claims 1-10 (of the accompanying *Literal English Translation of P.C.T. Application No. PCT/CH2003/000764*) have been cancelled and substituted by new Claims 13-27, which have been drafted in conformance with U.S. claim practice.

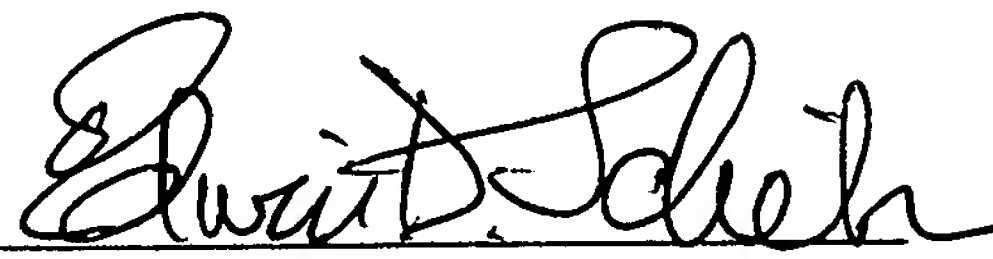
A substitute Abstract of the Disclosure, on a separate sheet of paper, as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b), is also enclosed.

The application is now in condition for a full examination on the merits.

Accordingly, an early examination on the merits and allowance are, therefore,
respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enc.: Abstract of the Disclosure